

Message Text

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12/72

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /085 W

----- 103795

P R 150040Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1874

INFO USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 3056 VICE 3051)

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RP; OVIP (RUSH)

SUBJECT: DEPSEC VISIT TO MANILA - ROMULO FISHES FOR ENDORSEMENT
OF NEW SOCIETY

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESS
RELEASE DATED MARCH 8 ENTITLED "U.S. CLOSER TO R.P. TODAY --
SEC. RUSH." RELEASE SHOWED UP AT EMBASSY MARCH 12 AND HAS
SO FAR NOT APPEARED IN PRESS.

2. QUOTE: IN AN INFORMAL SPEECH AT A DINNER GIVEN IN HIS HONOR
BY U.S. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM SULLIVAN, TO MEET RANKING MEMBERS
OF THE PHILIPPINE CABINET, LAST NIGHT (THURSDAY, 7 MARCH),
AT THE U.S. EMBASSY, U.S. UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE KENNETH
RUSH, WHO IS IN MANILA ON THE LAST LEG OF A FACT-FINDING
TOUR OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, SAID UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT THE U.S.
IS CLOSER TO THE PHILIPPINES THAN TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY TODAY.

3. "REPLYING TO FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO'S STATEMENT THAT
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THE PHILIPPINES WAS GRATIFIED TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN AMBASS-

ADOR OF THE ABILITY AND EXPERIENCE OF AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN, THE U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT THE CHOICE HAD BEEN DELIBERATE. THE U.S. SENT SULLIVAN, "A TOP DIPLOMAT," TO THE PHILIPPINES, RUSH STATED, PRECISELY BECAUSE THE U.S. IS CLOSER TO THIS COUNTRY, IN TIES OF SHARED PAST EXPERIENCE, PRESENT AND FUTURE PLANS, THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

4. "WHEN ASKED TO MAKE A FEW REMARKS, SECRETARY ROMULO SAID THAT HE WAS PLEASED TO WELCOME UNDERSECRETARY RUSH AND HIS DISTINGUISHED PARTY TO THE PHILIPPINES ON THE LAST LEG OF THEIR JOURNEY THROUGH SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND THIS BEING THE LAST STOP ON THAT ACQUAINTANCE TRIP, THE PHILIPPINES AND ITS PROBLEMS, CAN BE SEEN IN BETTER PERSPECTIVE BY SECRETARY RUSH.

5. "ROMULO, SPEAKING OF THE NEW SOCIETY, SAID: "BASICALLY, WE SEEK TO ACHIEVE SELF-RELIANCE, BOTH IN OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE DEVELOPMENT AND IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO CREATE DOMESTIC STABILITY. TO ASSIST IN THESE EFFORTS IS, I FONDLY BELIEVE, AN OBJECTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES, AS PART OF ITS LARGER OBJECTIVE OF CREATING A SITUATION OF STABILITY IN THE REGION. IT CAN DO SO BY EXPEDITING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE NEED OF THE PHILIPPINES TO PROTECT AND MAINTAIN ITS SECURITY."

6. THE PHILIPPINE FOREIGN SECRETARY FURTHER SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THE UNITED STATES HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE FUTURE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THAT "IT CAN NOT BE ENTIRELY UNAWARE OF THE NEW VIGOR AND DYNAMISM IN THE REGION, A VIGOR AND DYNAMISM WHICH IS IN PART A RESULT OF THE UNITED STATES DECISION TO RELAX TENSIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AN ACHIEVEMENT OF PRESIDENT NIXON WHICH WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS A DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGH OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE WORLD."

7. ROMULO CONCLUDED: "OUR OWN CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONTINUED RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IN THE REGION WILL DEPEND TO A DEGREE ON OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN A SELF-RELIANT POSTURE. SUCH A POSTURE REQUIRES TIME, AS WELL AS, OF COURSE, ASSISTANCE--NOT NEW ASSISTANCE BUT THE REFURBISHING OF OLD AGREEMENTS FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE.

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8. "I TRUST THAT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL VIEW OUR PROBLEMS IN THAT LIGHT." UNQUOTE

9. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT ISSUANCE OF DFA PRESS RELEASE WAS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER DEPARTURE OF DEPSEC RUSH AND SAUDI ARABIAN MINISTER OF STATE SAQQAF. PRESUMABLY WRITTEN BY ROMULO, PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPERT PAR EXCELLENCE, RELEASE IS GOOD

EXAMPLE OF LENGHTS GOP WILL GO IN ORDER TO CREATE APPEARANCE OF
INTERNATIONAL APPROVAL FOR THE NEW SOCIETY. EMBASSY HAS SO
FAR NOT LEARNED WHY RELEASE NOT PRINTED LOCALLY.
SULLIVAN

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